



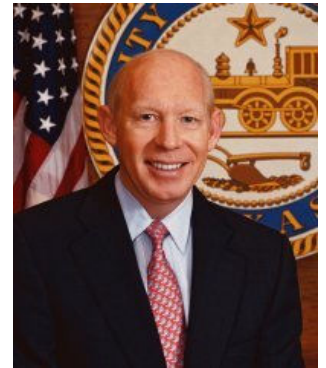
Message from the Mayor

Dear fellow Houstonians:

I am pleased to share with you my excitement in this inaugural issue of the 'City of Houston International Newsletter'.

We are extremely proud of the diverse and vibrant international heritage of our great city, the tremendous progress we as a city have made, and the enormous potential for Houston on the global stage. It is my great pride to be the mayor of such an energetic and dynamic city with limitless boundaries. As part of my administration's continued commitment to the growth of Houston, the 'International Newsletter' will serve as a valuable resource for our communities, our business sector, and the many organizations and associations that are dedicated to our city's international vision.

Bill White
Mayor of Houston



Bill White, Mayor of Houston

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Welcome to International Newsletter

Welcome to the first issue of the International Newsletter of the Office of International Affairs and Development. This monthly newsletter is intended as an information tool to foster global partnership, trade, investment and information exchange between Houston and cities of the world. Our next issue will contain full-length articles and information about the 2005 trade mission to Asia. We are also delighted to feature "Meet the Consular Corps" in our upcoming issue.

Helen T. Chang
Director of International Affairs & Development

About MOIAD

Who Are We?

The Mayor's Office of International Affairs & Development is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and continued growth of Houston's standing as a renowned international city.

What We Do?

In keeping with the mission statement to promote Houston on the international stage, MOIAD organizes international events, receives and coordinates inbound as well as outbound delegations. The office plays a proactive role in identifying potential business development in the Global markets for Houston companies. The MOIAD works in close partnership with Greater Houston Metropolitan Area organizations and cities around the world.

International City

Houston in the World

Houston is poised to emerge as the next U.S. hub for international exchange. With high marks in global and regional rankings of the port, airport, medical science, aerospace, and energy sectors, Houston is already well on its way. As these industries continue to expand in 2005, they are playing a significant role in shaping Houston's image as an international city.



NASA

- Largest Medical Center in the world
- Energy Capital of the world
- Number 1 U.S. port in foreign tonnage
- Home to 22 *Fortune* 500 headquarters
- Johnson Space Center is NASA's main center for human space flight, Space Shuttle, and International Space Station activities
- 40th largest urban area in the world
- Lowest cost of living among ten major metro areas in the U.S.
- 44% of the population speaks a language other than English at home
- 27% of the population is foreign-born
- One out of every three jobs is related to international trade
- 3rd largest consular corps in the U.S., with 77 consulates

Emerging International Travel and Convention Business

- Among the **Top 25 Hospitality Markets in U.S.**
- Home to George Bush Intercontinental (IAH), the **8th busiest airport in the U.S** and the **14th busiest in the world**. Nearly 35 million airline passengers traveled through IAH in 2004.
- Home to the George R. Brown Convention Center, the **9th largest U.S. Exhibition Facility**.
- Home to Continental Airlines, one of the best airlines in the U.S.

Source: *Convene*, November 2004

January 2005 Highlights



Le Pays de la Sagouine, Bouctouche, New Brunswick

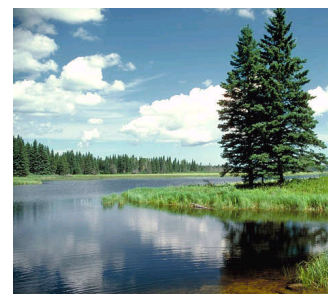
Canada in Houston

Bienvenu, Houston!

There was no maple syrup, but there sure was a lot of Crown Royal as Premier Bernard Lord of New Brunswick and Premier Gary Doer of Manitoba descended on Houston on January 25th. Texas is the largest consumer of Crown Royal, Premier Doer stated, but where does the crystal clear water that goes into every bottle of Crown Royal come from? Canada! Thus was the theme, or at least a part of it, for the Business Networking Reception at the

Inter-Continental Hotel. As guests munched on cranberry risotto and smoked salmon, the two leaders illustrated the benefits of doing business in Canada. Premier Lord stressed Canada's desire to work with Houston in establishing a strong partnership between the two countries.

This idea was also shared by Premier Doer, who reminded Houston that all they had to do to visit him was to get on the I-35 and turn right. He also said that it was time to stop the partisan bickering and put political differences aside in order to get things done. The well-attended event was a step towards the future, and hopefully we will see much of Canada in the years to come. – **By Ivy Kuperberg**



Whirlpool Lake, Manitoba



HKTDC seminar in Houston draws a crowd

Hong Kong in Houston

歡迎!

A large crowd of real estate investors, businessmen, and community leaders filled the Double-tree Hotel Houston on January 26th for the first ever Hong Kong trade seminar: "Hong Kong, The Premier Business Platform for China".

The seminar, featured by the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (HKTDC), started with the welcome remarks by Ms. Helen T. Chang,

Director of MOIAD. Panel speakers were Mr. Stephen Wong of HKTDC, Dr. J. Benjamin Bai of Jones Day, Mr. Martin Yupangco of International Risk Limited, and Mr. Bobby Carter of UPS. The seminar portrayed Hong Kong's two significant roles: a global platform for foreign investors to enter the lucrative mainland China market and a major international hub for finance, business, service and logistics.

With the "Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement" (CEPA) signed between Hong Kong and China, "foreign investors can partner with Hong Kong firms to enjoy quota-free and duty-free access to the mainland," said Stephen Wong. In all aspects, CEPA makes it possible for foreign investors to tap the China market through Hong Kong. – **By Wing Sai (Dion) Or**



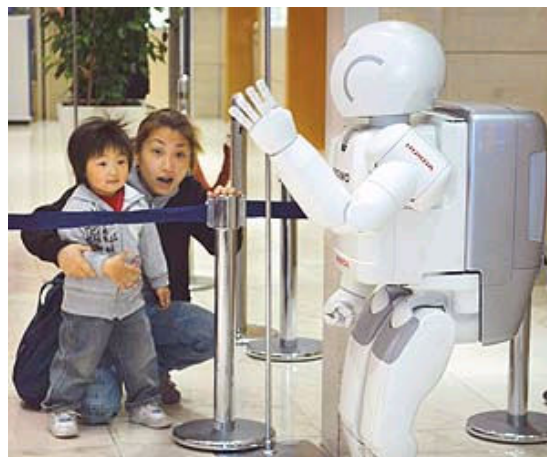
Ms. Helen T. Chang, Director of MOIAD and Mr. Stephen Wong, Regional Director of HKTDC

Upcoming Major Events

Tokyo City Promotion 2005

Tokyo, in addition to being the seat of the nation's government, is the financial and business hub of Japan and home to the country's innovative and dynamic IT, manufacturing, hi-tech, and communications industry. Its economy continues to be one of the world's strongest, and Japan should remain, for the foreseeable future, a key actor in the global economy.

On Thursday, February 10, 2005, Tokyo Vice Governor Takeo Hamauzu will lead a delegation, comprised of key government officials and corporate executives in Japan's tourism, manufacturing, and hi-tech sectors, to Houston for the 'Tokyo City Promotion 2005.' In addition to networking opportunities, there will be exhibitions and robot demonstrations showcasing the cutting-edge Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology and technological applications that have long been the trademark of Japanese manufacturing. – **By David Chang**



Tokyo Showcase

Celebrate Shanghai in Houston

Shanghai, the financial city of China, has shared a long history of friendship and mutual cooperation with Houston in the areas of port, airport, trade, education, technology, exhibitions, medical and cultural exchange.

Shanghai Mayor Han Zheng will lead a large delegation of business leaders and government officials to Houston on March 31 – April 2. A business forum and gala dinner will take place during his visit. In addition to underscoring our longstanding partnership and friendship with Shanghai, the 3-day program will also open doors to new business opportunities between our two cities. – **By Stephen D. Dictor**

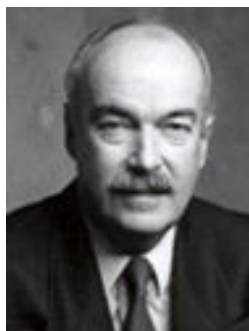


Shanghai

*For further information on these exciting events,
please contact the Office of International Affairs & Development*

International Frontier - George Donnelly

Every month we will focus upon a Houstonian who has made an indelible mark on our city through outstanding contributions and service to the growth of Houston as an international city



George Donnelly

Born in Brazil, Mr. George Donnelly's lifelong ties to the international community can easily be traced back to his formative childhood and adolescent years. Mr. Donnelly had many

opportunities to see the world as the family frequently relocated due to his father's many overseas assignments as a U.S. Ambassador. After completing business school at Georgetown University and Columbia University's International Management Program. He came to Houston in 1971 to begin working in the burgeoning oil industry of Houston and Southeast Texas.

Houston in 1971 was a city that was defined by oil, NASA, close proximity to Mexico, but not by much else. Drawing upon his corporate and global experience, Mr. Donnelly realized that Houston was poised to be THE gateway to not only Mexico, but to also to the rest of Latin America and beyond. He worked with the Greater Houston Partnership and the Council of the Americas, served on the Houston Aviation Committee as a proponent of establishing more direct-air service links with worldwide destinations, all to, in his words, "spreading the word about Houston and shifting focus upon the city as the center of business and culture between the U. S. and our Latin American partners."

He views the subsequent flourishing of ties between Houston and the rest of the Americas as an accurate microcosm of the direction the city will take in the next thirty years, and he takes his greatest pride in being able to recite each of these accomplishments and developments in detail. "You look at the astonishing growth of Houston with respect to Latin America, and you will find the fundamentals already in place for Houston to continue its next step in the evolution of a truly international city. Our dynamic energy, our welcoming spirit to people from all walks of life and from all corners of the globe, our diversity, and our optimism gives me tremendous excitement for our integrated, global future. You see that in the member of our City Council, and more recently, how we Houstonians responded with open hearts to the Southeast Asia tsunami relief effort."

As for the city's challenges in the next 30 years? "I really don't see them as challenges," Mr. Donnelly said after a moment's thought, "but rather as steps to show us the critical importance of inclusiveness and working together as citizens of the world."

– By David Chang

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**Next Submission Deadline:
February 20, 2005**

*The contents are intended for
general information purposes only*

February – 2005 Event Calendar *compiled by MOIAD*

Date / Time	Event	Venue / Contact	
Jan 14-23 Jan 28-Feb 6	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Films: 12 th Iranian Film Festival	Venue:	Jan 14-23, 2005: Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Jan 28-Feb 6, 2005: Rice Cinema
		Contact:	713-639-7515
Jan 28-Feb 6	Museum of Fine Arts, Houston Films: 12 th Iranian Film Festival	Venue:	Rice Cinema
		Contact:	713-639-7515
Jan 26, Feb 9 & 23 4:00pm-5:00pm	Houston Technology Center: Orientation	Venue:	Houston Technology Center
		Contact:	713-658-1750
Feb 1 9:00am-noon	The Fort Worth International Center & The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce: The Decline of the U.S. Dollar – Strategies for protecting Your Company	Venue:	Fort Worth International Center
		Contact:	817-392-2666
Feb 2 4:30pm-6:00pm	Port of Houston Authority: How to Do Business with the Port of Houston Authority	Venue:	Port of Houston Executive Building: 1
		Contact:	713-670-2597
Feb 3 5:30pm-7:30pm	Indo-American Political Action Committee Celebrates 10 th Anniversary	Venue:	Fort Bend Chamber of Commerce
		Contact:	Dinesh Shah, 281-242-4894
Feb 3 7:30am-9:00am	Houston Networking News: Rise and Shine Breakfast Event	Venue:	Amazon Grill
		Contact:	281-778-6661
Feb 3 4:00pm-5:00pm	The Transnational China Project of The Baker Institute for Public Policy: Why is Mongolian Buddhism not Ethnically Chic?	Venue:	Rice University, Humanities 119
		Contact:	tnchina@rice.edu
Feb 3 7:30am-1:30pm	Horizons: A public Works Seminar	Venue:	Hyatt Regency Houston
		Contact:	Jill Reese 713-844-3694
Feb 3 6:00pm-8:00 pm	Careers Representing America: the U.S Foreign Service Wants You	Venue:	University of St. Thomas
		Contact:	Paul Watson, paulwatson@yahoo.com
Feb 3 6:00pm-8:00pm	Asia Society: Careers Representing America presentation	Venue:	University of St. Thomas, Ahern Room
		Contact:	713-439-0265
Feb 4 7:15am-9:00am	Houston Technology Center: Tech Champs Meeting	Venue:	Houston Technology Center
		Contact:	713-658-1750
Feb 5 6:00pm-Midnight	The Asian American Real Estate Association: 2 nd Annual Spring Gala	Venue:	Ocean Palace Restaurant
		Contact:	Janet Chan, 281-504-1988
Feb 5 11:45am	Houston Asian Lunar New Year Festival Celebration	Venue:	11122 Bellaire Blvd (Southern News Building)
		Contact:	Angela 281-498-4310

Feb 6 10:00am-7:00pm	Vietnamese New Year Celebration	Venue: Contact:	Reliant Stadium Area (Fannin at 610 South) 832-868-4848
Feb 6 1:00pm-3:00pm	FREE Addiction: Boundary Development Recovery Lecture	Venue: Contact:	St. John the Divine Church 713-524-9995
Feb 7 TBD	Houston World Affairs Council: Rudi Lechner Great Decisions Group meeting	Venue: Contact:	Rudi Lechner's 713-522-7811
Feb 7 TBD	Houston World Affairs Council: Shiva Indian Restaurant Group meeting	Venue: Contact:	Shiva Indian Restaurant Dave Bergt 713-500-9491
Feb 7 11:30am-1:30pm	Houston World Affairs Council: His Excellency Marc Ravalomanana, President of Madagascar	Venue: Contact:	The Petroleum Club 713-522-7811
Feb 7 Noon-1:30pm	Greater Houston Partnership: State of the County Address	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas – Houston Allyson LaFave 713-844-3623
Feb 8 TBD	Houston World Affairs Council: The Foreign Policy Challenges of the Next Four Years, The Honorable Robert Blackwill	Venue: Contact:	The Westin Galleria Hotel 713-522-7811
Feb 8 8:30am-5:00pm	Houston Technology Center – University: Introduction to Entrepreneurship	Venue: Contact:	Houston Technology Center 713-658-1750
Feb 8 6:30pm-8:00pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Young Professionals Group orientation meeting	Venue: Contact:	TBD 713-522-7811
Feb 9 11:30am-1:00pm	Education Outreach Program of the Houston World Affairs Council: Chinese Lunch	Venue: Contact:	Ocean Palace Restaurant 713-316-4476
Feb 9 10:30am-2:30pm	The Asian Chamber of Commerce: Mini Expo	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria 713-782-7222
Feb 10 3:00pm-6:30pm	Mayor's Office, City of Houston & Tokyo Metropolitan Government: Manufacturing Exhibition/ Expo	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria Hotel Helen Chang 713-247-3595
Feb 11 8:00am-2:00pm	Asia Society Texas: Annual Asia Ambassadors' Forum and Luncheon	Venue: Contact:	InterContinental Hotel 713-439-1107
Feb 11 6:30pm	Asia Society Texas: Tiger Ball 2005	Venue: Contact:	InterContinental Hotel 713-439-1107
Feb 12 10:00am-4:00pm	Chinese Community Center: Lunar New Year Celebration	Venue: Contact:	5855 Sovereign (Chinese Community Center) 713-271-6100
Feb 13 1:00pm-3:00pm	FREE Addiction: Healthy Communication Skills Recovery Lecture	Venue: Contact:	St. John the Divine Church 713-524-9995

Feb 15 5:30pm-8:00pm	Educate, Empower, Enlighten and Impassion	Venue: Contact:	The Good Space Pilates Studio 713-784-8555
Feb 14 6:30pm-8:00pm	Houston World Affairs Council: The Belgian Café Great Decisions Group meeting	Venue: Contact:	Café Montrose Dr. Pauline Rosenau 713-500-9491
Feb 17 11:15am-1:30pm	Houston Technology Center: Houston Technology Forum - Charles Phillips	Venue: Contact:	Hilton Americas Hotel 832-476-9281
Feb 17 4:00pm-6:00pm	Greater Houston Partnership: Linking up	Venue: Contact:	GHP Susan Dotson 713-844-3678
Feb 18 11:00am-1:00pm	League of Women Voters – Houston Area: A repast with a pair of political pioneers IV “Exchanging Views”	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria Hotel 713-784-2923
Feb 22 TBD	Houston World Affairs Council: Young Professionals Group meeting	Venue: Contact:	The Petroleum Club 713-522-7811
Feb 22 5:30pm	The Australian American Chamber of Commerce & TANZOT: Australia Day & Waitangi Day Celebration	Venue: Contact:	4623 Feagan Street 281-496-3165
Feb 24 6:30pm-7:45pm	Houston World Affairs Council: “Terror’s Children” a documentary by Sharmeen Obaid	Venue: Contact:	The Junior League Building
Feb 24-March 3	Bilateral US-Arab Chamber of Commerce & Texas Secretary of State Geoffrey Connor: Qatar & UAE Business Development Mission	Venue: Contact:	Qatar and UAE 713-880-8168
Feb 26 6:30pm-12:00am	Chinese Professional Club: Annual Scholarship Ball	Venue: Contact:	Westin Galleria Peggy Lum 281-242-8217
Feb 28 6:30pm-7:00pm	Houston World Affairs Council: Islam in a Globalized World, Dr. Seyyed Nasr	Venue: Contact:	Westin Oaks Hotel 713-522-7811

This event calendar is a compilation of the information we received from our business and community sectors, and we gladly welcome your event notices for future editions.

Houston Downtown